

In one week, the team operated on 11 patients, from 14 to 35, including a 25-year-old pregnant woman whose injuries had left her a quadriplegic. Nine of the patients were Haitian earthquake victims; two were injured in a motorcycle crash.

Despite the severity of the patients' injuries and the tragedy they'd been through, members of the surgical team said they were struck by the Haitians' resolve to live and wait for help.

"When you looked into their eyes, you saw a terror and fear that just burns into your soul," said Dr. Howard Konowitz, an anesthesiologist from Gottlieb Memorial Hospital in Melrose Park who was on the trip. "There was no morphine . . . but no one was moaning, no one was screaming."

The team performed its work at Dario Contreras Hospital, a public hospital in the Dominican capital of Santo Domingo where many Haitians have sought medical attention since the earthquake. Team members chose the hospital consulting with the Ministry of Health on where their skills would be of most help.

The team worked in grueling conditions, operating in rooms where the heat reached 85 degrees. Some patients waited in crowded hallways, others on thin mattresses atop rusted metal frames.

"We were working long hours. The rooms were so hot, people were dehydrated," said Teresa Dudic, a bilingual scrub nurse from Gottlieb. "And the patients, you could see the desperation in their eyes, they were scared."

Konowitz described the trip as "life-changing."

"All the other catastrophes that I can remember in my lifetime, there was nothing medically like this that I can remember," he said. "It's haunting what we saw."

And although it was gratifying to provide what help they could, team members recognized it was a tiny fraction of the need.

"We may have fixed their spine during the week, but we only got to 11 (people)," Butler said. "There were another 20 we couldn't take care of."

And the people they did treat need long-term care.

Maria Korbel, another member of the team who's bilingual and a registered nurse at the Illinois Bone & Joint Institute in Morton Grove, said she hopes their work will inspire others.

"If we were able to start a chain reaction, I think that would be fabulous," Korbel said. "I hope we started something good, something positive, something that will keep going."

Physician's assistant Alicia Granger-Carlson and nurse Aimee Duque-Randolph also were members of the team.

RECOGNIZING THE 189TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1107 to recognize the 189th anniversary of the independence of Greece and to celebrate Greek and American democracy.

The path to a free and democratic state is often long and arduous. This has been particularly true for Greece, and through the decades, the country has worked diligently to en-

sure the rights of citizens and uphold the principles of democracy. On March 25, 2010, we join the Greeks in celebrating their Independence Day, and by so doing, we are reminded of the sacrifices that a country grounded in democratic principles necessitates. In truth, the work that goes into attaining a freer and fairer democratic state never truly ends, and for this reason, it is important to recognize the citizens of Greece and the Greek government on this day.

Madam Speaker, the country of Greece has played a remarkable role in European history, and I commend the Greek people on their accomplishments and commitment to democratic ideals. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in honoring the people of Greece on the occasion of their 189th Independence Day.

HONORING TIMOTHY REILLY

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mr. Timothy Reilly. Recently, both Tim and his business, Miami Valley International Trucks, were awarded the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

Awarded by Navistar, Inc., the Circle of Excellence is given to dealerships that "achieve the highest level of performance in terms of operating and financial standards, market representation, and, most importantly, customer satisfaction." It is the highest honor that an International dealer can receive from Navistar.

Tim purchased Miami Valley International Trucks in 2004. Since then, he has earned 14 Circle of Excellence Awards and an Isuzu Ichiban Award, given to commercial truck dealers to recognize business excellence and civic-mindedness. Under his leadership, Miami Valley Trucks has grown to include five dealer locations and two parts and services sites in Ohio that employ 367 employees.

These awards are a testament to Tim's reputation as a leader in the trucking industry. This reputation has been honed through his activity and commitment to organizations like the Ohio Automobile Dealers Association, International Marketing, Sales & Finance Advisory Board, and as a former member of the Idealease board of directors. A dedicated supporter of his alma mater, Notre Dame, Tim also is a devoted father to his twin daughters, now 13 years old.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Tim Reilly for his accomplishments, his record of success, and his many contributions to his community, the State of Ohio, and our Nation.

CELEBRATING MINOOKA COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY BOYS WRESTLING TEAM FOR WINNING THEIR FIRST EVER STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Minooka Community

High School Boys Varsity Wrestling Team for becoming the 2009–2010 Illinois High School Association Class 3A Dual Team State Wrestling Champions.

Through relentless practice and commitment to their sport, the team captured Minooka Community High School's first ever team state championship title. I congratulate the hard work, dedication, and long hours that everyone involved put in to make this title possible; the coaches for their patience and working with these young athletes, to the parents for believing in their students, to the competitors for believing in themselves and their team.

The members of the championship Indian squad are: Kevin Akers, Mitchell Brozovich, Clayton Charland, Brandon Collofello, Jacob DeKlerk, Zachary Friant, Joseph Govednik, Brandon Haase, Calvin Hill, Alex Hoshell, Cody Jones, Sean Kenny, Matthew Meyer, Matthew McEvilly, Michael McNulty, Blake Montella, Mitchell Morris, Colin Nielsen, Corbett Oughton, Jacob Potts, Josh Pullara, Jacob Residori, Daniel Ruettiger, Leo Ruettiger, Kevin Ruettiger, Matthew Stevens, Timothy Wright and Robert Zabel; and are led by head coach Bernie Ruettiger; and the assistant coaches: Jeff Charlebois, Mike Butterbach, Paige Schoolman, Stan Tischer, and Jon Ryan.

Congratulations on a season to be remembered.

AFGHANISTAN WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I oppose this resolution.

I have serious reservations about the presence of U.S. Forces in Afghanistan. I opposed the President's plan to send additional troops into that country, and I opposed funding for the surge. I was reassured when the President said that he wanted to begin withdrawing U.S. troops beginning in 2011. I joined 137 of my colleagues to vote with Representative MCGOVERN to demand that the President provide a plan for withdrawing from Afghanistan, and have been deeply concerned that the mission for our troops there is not clear. If their mission is not well defined, how can we expect to judge success?

I do not support an open-ended commitment without clear goals. But I also cannot support a sudden withdrawal without a plan to protect American lives and American interests. And that's why I will vote against this Resolution.

This Resolution directs the President to remove all U.S. forces from Afghanistan 30 days from adoption, unless the President decides it is not safe to do so. He would then have until the end of 2010 to remove all U.S. forces from Afghanistan.

This language is absolute and provides no exceptions.

It does not provide exceptions for U.S. forces that might be necessary to safeguard U.S. embassy personnel.

It does not provide exceptions for our intelligence community or Special Forces so they can continue to support Afghanistan and Pakistan in the search for al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden.